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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of D. Swistak et al.

Date: January 11, 2006

Serial No. 10/677,772

Examiner: T. Mayo

Filed: 10/1/03

Art Group: 3671

For: Leaching Chamber with Inward Flaring
Sidewall Perforations

Atty Docket No. 2313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

To: Commissioner for Patents

The present application has relation to application number 10/677,938 of Brochu et al., (Atty. No. 2229) which is referred to and incorporated by reference at the beginning of the Description. See page 4. This IDS was submitted in the related application, and is now submitted here.

Exhibit A shows in end view a thermoplastic arch shape cross section corrugated chamber, referred to here as the "mini-chamber". The mini-chamber is about 5.3 inches wide, 2.6 inches high and 12 inches long. Other mini-chamber dimensions are shown in the enclosed drawing/document.

The mini-chamber was originally constructed as a subscale model of a prior art commercial "Hi Cap Chamber", which large chamber has been sold by Infiltrator Systems Inc. The Hi Cap chamber had features like those described in patents 4,759, 661 and 5,017,041.

The Exhibit A mini-chamber is an about one-sixth scale model approximation of the Hi Cap chamber. The full scale Hi Cap chamber is about 33 inches wide, about 16 inches high and about 76 inches long. There are other versions, e.g., the "Standard" chamber which have similar shapes but somewhat different dimensions.

Although constructed as a sales tool, the mini-chamber was sold for use in treating wastewater more than one year prior to the filing of the present application. As detailed below the mini-chamber has an unusually thin wall and small slots, compared to the full size chambers. It is for that reason it is now submitted in prudence as prior art information, even though applicants do not believe the mini-chamber discloses or makes obvious any features of the invention which is subject of the pending claims.

Consistent with the full scale chamber, the sidewalls of the mini-chamber are planar, of constant thickness, and have louvers. The slots flare outwardly and slope downwardly. As a result of the scale-down, the mini-chamber has sidewall thickness, slot height and slot spacing which are atypically small, compared to other prior art chambers. In particular, the perforated sidewall thickness is about 0.06 inch vs. 0.5 inch in the full scale article. This thickness also compares with an about 0.15 to 0.18 inch thickness of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

The slot height of the mini-chamber is about 0.04 inch vs. about 0.2-0.3 inch in the full scale chamber. This also compares with about 0.7 to 0.9 inch height for an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

The pitch, or edge-to-edge spacing, of the slots along the rise of the sidewall, is about 0.1 inch in the mini-chamber, versus about 0.5 inch in the full scale chamber. This also compares with about 0.2 to 0.4 inch pitch in an exemplary present invention chamber.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Swistak et al.

By CGNessler
Their Attorney

Charles G. Nessler
Box H
Chester, CT 06412
(860) 526 9149 Fax (860) 526 9149 email: cn@cnessler.com

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail bearing label ED 382573448 US in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313 on January 11, 2006.

CGNessler
C. G. Nessler